



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NOLAN ET AL.

Atty. Ref.: 839-1484

Serial No. 10/806,426

Group: 3745

Filed: March 23, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR REPAIRING
TENONS ON TURBINE BUCKETS

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September 26, 2005

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Requirement for Restriction set forth in the letter of August 26, 2005, applicants elect for examination, claims 1-12, drawn to a method of repairing tenons. With respect to the requirement for an election of species as between Species A directed to "releasable secured buckets," and Species B, directed to "fixed buckets," applicants elect Species A, i.e., claims 1-12. Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction as between claims 1-12, claims 13-18 and claims 19-21 on various grounds set forth below and also the requirement for the election of species.

As to the requirement made for restriction between claims 1-12 and claims 13-18, the Examiner has not set forth any reasons for the requirement. The sole reason set forth in the requirement for restriction is between the method claims 1-18 of both Groups I and II and the welding apparatus of Group III, i.e., claims 19-21. Indeed, the fact that claims 1-12 and claims